

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. A fluid-operated percussion drill tool, in particular a down-the-hole hammer, comprising an external cylindrical outer wear sleeve, an inner cylinder mounted co-axially within the outer wear sleeve, a sliding piston mounted for reciprocating movement within the inner cylinder and the outer wear sleeve, to strike a hammer bit mounted at the lower end of the outer wear sleeve, and the inner cylinder has an abutment which engages with a complementary engagement means wherein the abutment of the inner cylinder is an inwardly-directed abutment which in the assembled tool is clamped between the complementary engagement means and a locking means such that the inner cylinder is rigidly mounted and held in the drill tool assembly relative to the outer wear sleeve.
2. A tool as claimed in claim 1, wherein the locking means comprises an annular air distributor mount the lower end of which is screw-threadably engaged with the top end of the outer wear sleeve.
3. A tool as claimed in claim 2, wherein the air distributor is threadably engaged at its upper end with a top locking member which abuts the top of the air distributor mount.
4. A tool as claimed in claim 1 wherein the inwardly directed abutment of the inner cylinder is an inwardly-directed annular shoulder which is clamped between the complementary engagement means, which comprises an outwardly-directed annular flange, and the locking means.
5. A tool as claimed in claim 1 comprising a top locking member screw threadably mounted on an annular air-distributor, which is fitted concentrically through an inner cylinder and an annular distributor mount, and an annular flange on the lower end of the air-distributor abuts the underside of an inwardly-directed abutment in inner cylinder, and a top end of the inner cylinder abuts a lower end of the distributor mount whereby the inner cylinder is locked in position.

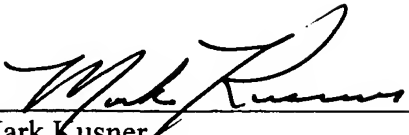
6. A tool as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the top end of the inner cylinder comprises an annular shoulder or flange which is rigidly held between an annular flange on the lower end of air-distributor which abuts an annular shoulder of the inner cylinder, and the lower end of the distributor mount.
7. A fluid-operated percussion drill tool, in particular a down-the-hole hammer, comprising an external cylindrical outer wear sleeve, an inner cylinder mounted co-axially within the outer wear sleeve, a sliding piston mounted for reciprocating movement within the inner cylinder and the outer wear sleeve, to strike a hammer bit mounted at the lower end of the outer wear sleeve, and wherein the inner cylinder has an inwardly-directed abutment and wherein the top end of the outer wear sleeve is screw-threadably engaged with the lower end of an annular air distributor mount, the top end of the inner cylinder abuts the lower end of the distributor mount, a lower end of the air distributor abuts the inwardly-directed abutment in the inner cylinder and is threadably engaged at its upper end with a top locking member which in its locked position abuts the top of the air distributor mount such that the inner cylinder is rigidly mounted and held in the drill tool assembly relative to the outer wear sleeve.
8. A tool as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the bottom of the top locking member has a flat annular rim which engages a complementary flat shoulder on the top end of the distributor mount.
9. A fluid-operated percussion drill tool, in particular a down-the-hole hammer, comprising an external cylindrical outer wear sleeve, an inner cylinder mounted co-axially within the outer wear sleeve, a sliding piston mounted for reciprocating movement within the inner cylinder and the outer wear sleeve, to strike a hammer bit mounted at the lower end of the outer wear sleeve, and wherein the inner cylinder has an inwardly-directed abutment and there is an elongate cylindrical air distributor positioned within the hammer assembly and the inwardly-directed abutment on the inner cylinder engages with a complementary abutment on the air distributor and locking means connected to the outer wear sleeve are provided to clamp the inwardly-directed abutment between the abutment on the air distributor, and the

locking means is such that the inner cylinder is rigidly mounted in the drill assembly relative to the outer wear sleeve.

10. A tool as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the locking means comprises an annular air distributor mount the lower end of which is screw-threadably engaged with the top end of the outer wear sleeve.
11. A tool as claimed in claim 10 characterized in that the air distributor is threadably engaged at its upper end with a top locking member which abuts the top of the air distributor mount.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 30, 2005



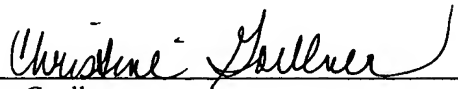
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